

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): A process of preparing beverages from beverage preparations, comprising the steps of:

- supplying an amount of liquid to a capsule containing a beverage preparation to prepare a beverage,
- forming a dispensing opening that has a dispensing area, through which said beverage can flow from inside said capsule to outside said capsule,
- dispensing the thus obtained beverage from said capsule through said dispensing opening, and changing an area of said dispensing opening at least twice by increasing and decreasing the area during said step of dispensing the thus obtained beverage from said capsule, before all said beverage has been dispensed.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The process according to claim 1, comprising a further step of increasing said area of said dispensing opening.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The process according to claims 1 or 2, wherein said changing of said area of said dispensing opening is obtained according to the pressure built up within said capsule by the liquid fed to the capsule.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The process according to claim 3, wherein said dispensing opening is formed between a puncturing member fitted in one wall of said capsule and an edge of said wall which surrounds said puncturing member, and wherein the edge of said wall is substantially adherent to said puncturing member at a beginning of the step of feeding the liquid into the capsule, moves away from said member in

order to form said dispensing opening upon pressurization of said capsule, and returns to an at least partially closed position after an amount of beverage has been dispensed from the capsule but before all the beverage has been dispensed.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The process according to claim 3, wherein said dispensing opening is formed between one wall of said capsule, a movable outlet lid portion of said wall and an opening element of said movable outlet lid portion and wherein said outlet lid portion is in a closed position at the beginning of the step of feeding liquid to the capsule, moves into an open position after said capsule has been pressurized by said liquid, and moves to an at least partially closed position after an amount of beverage is dispensed from the capsule but before all the beverage has been dispensed.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): A process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said opening is formed when the pressurized liquid inside said capsule pushes an outlet lid portion of the capsule bottom wall outwardly of said capsule.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A capsule for the preparation of beverages from soluble preparations after a liquid has been fed to said capsule, said capsule comprising:

a dispensing wall and a dispensing wall lid portion opens to form a dispensing opening for said beverage,

wherein said capsule includes means for ~~varying~~ repeatedly increasing and decreasing an area of said dispensing opening ~~at least twice~~ during dispensing the beverage from said capsule such that a cycle of increasing and decreasing the area of said opening repeats as long as water is added to the capsule.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The capsule according to claim 7, wherein said means for ~~varying~~ repeatedly increasing and decreasing said area of said dispensing opening comprise hinge means.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The capsule of claim 8, wherein said hinge means are provided on the dispensing wall of the capsule in which said opening is formed, to impart an oscillating movement to said wall during said dispensing.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 8, wherein said hinge means are hinges that connect said dispensing wall lid portion to said dispensing wall, and said hinges bias said lid portion to return to an at least partially closed position after having been stressed into the open position before all the beverage has been dispensed.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 7, wherein at least part of said dispensing wall has a rigidity within a range of 10 to 55 N/mm measured by compression with a punch and deflection set to 3 mm.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A capsule for the preparation of beverages from soluble preparations after a liquid has been fed into said capsule, said capsule comprising:
a dispensing wall including an outlet lid portion to form a dispensing opening for said beverage, wherein at least part of said dispensing wall has a rigidity within the range of 10 to 55 N/mm measured by compression with a punch and deflection set to 3 mm such that an area of the dispensing opening ~~changes at least twice~~ repeatedly increases and decreases during dispensing of the beverage and a cycle of increasing and decreasing the area of said opening repeats as long as water is added to the capsule.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of said dispensing wall in the area surrounding said dispensing wall lid portion is greater than a thickness of said bottom wall adjacent side walls of the capsule.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 13, wherein said dispensing wall is inclined convergent towards said dispensing wall lid portion and wherein an angle of inclination of said wall towards said dispensing wall lid portion is within the range of 1 to 15 degrees.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The use of a capsule with a dispensing group comprising a puncturing member which is housed within said dispensing opening during said dispensing, wherein a size of said puncturing member portion engaging said bottom wall of the capsule is equal to or greater than a size of said openable portion of the bottom wall.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The use of a capsule according to claim 15 with the dispensing group comprising an opening member engaging said outlet lid portion opening when said capsule is pressurised during said feeding step in order to form a dispensing opening.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): A device for the preparation of beverages from soluble preparations, comprising capsule receiving means of a capsule and a puncturing member for perforating a dispensing wall of said capsule and forming a dispensing opening, wherein a size of a portion of said puncturing member that engages said

capsule bottom wall is substantially equal to or greater than a size of said lid portion of the bottom wall.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The capsule ~~for preparing a beverage from food products housed within it~~, according to ~~any~~ claim 7[[,]] further comprising a filter element.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 18, wherein said filter element is spaced apart from a bottom wall of said capsule via a spacer.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 18, wherein said dispensing wall is configured to move outwardly relative to an interior of the capsule.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 9, wherein said hinge means are hinges connecting said dispensing wall lid portion to said dispensing wall, said hinges biasing said lid portion to return to an at least partially closed position after having been stressed into the open position before all the beverage has been dispensed.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The capsule according to claim 9, wherein a thickness of said dispensing wall in the area surrounding said dispensing wall lid portion is greater than a thickness of said bottom wall adjacent side walls of the capsule.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The capsule ~~for preparing a beverage from food products housed within it~~, according to claim 8[[,]] further comprising a filter element.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The capsule ~~for preparing a beverage from food products housed within it~~, according to claim 9[[,]] further comprising a filter element.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The capsule ~~for preparing a beverage from food products housed within it~~, according to claim 12[[,]] further comprising a filter element.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): A capsule for the preparation of beverages from soluble preparations after a liquid has been fed to said capsule, said capsule comprising:

a dispensing wall and a dispensing wall lid portion which opens to form a dispensing opening for said beverage,

wherein said capsule ~~varies~~ repeatedly increases and decreases an area of said dispensing opening ~~at least twice~~ during dispensing the beverage from said capsule such that a cycle of increasing and decreasing the area of said opening repeats as long as water is added to the capsule, and

a hinge connects the dispensing wall lid portion to the dispensing wall and biases the dispensing wall lid portion toward a closed position.